

2021 -- S 0985

LC003088

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO REVIEW AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE
ADMINISTRATION OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS IN THE STATE
OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Louis P. DiPalma

Date Introduced: June 27, 2021

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

1 WHEREAS, The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) was
2 established in state law in 2006 to serve as the principal agency of the executive branch of state
3 government to manage the State's four health and human services departments: the Departments
4 of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), Health (RIDOH), and Human Services (DHS), and
5 Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH); and

6 WHEREAS, The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is
7 administered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services who is responsible to the Governor
8 for supervising EOHHS and for managing and providing strategic leadership and direction to the
9 four health and human services departments; and

10 WHEREAS, EOHHS is intended to be a consumer-centered system of publicly-financed
11 state administered health and human services that supports access to high-quality services,
12 protects the safety of the State's most vulnerable citizens, and ensures the efficient use of all
13 available resources by the four departments responsible for the health and human services
14 programs serving all Rhode Islanders and providing direct assistance and support services
15 individuals and families; and

16 WHEREAS, EOHHS was charged with leading the four (4) departments in order to:

17 (1) Improve the economy, efficiency, coordination, and quality of health and human
18 services policy and planning, budgeting, and financing;

1 (2) Design strategies and implement best practices that foster service access, consumer
2 safety, and positive outcomes;

3 (3) Maximize and leverage funds from all available public and private sources, including
4 federal financial participation, grants, and awards;

5 (4) Increase public confidence by conducting independent reviews of health and human
6 services issues in order to promote accountability and coordination across departments; and

7 (5) Ensure that state health and human services policies and programs are responsive to
8 changing consumer needs and to the network of community providers that deliver assistive
9 services and supports on their behalf, and other duties pursuant to § 42-7.2-2; and

10 WHEREAS, The health and human services landscape has changed greatly since 2006;
11 now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created
13 consisting of not more than eleven (11) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the
14 Senate, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of
15 the Senate; and not more than eight (8) of whom shall be members with relevant expertise and
16 experience as providers, partners and/or stakeholders of the Executive Office of Health and
17 Human Services, the Medical Assistance (Medicaid) Program, the Department of Children, Youth
18 and Families, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, and the Department
19 of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals, to be appointed by the
20 President of the Senate.

21 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a legislative study
22 commission, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in
23 place of a legislator, provided that the Senate President or the Minority Leader of the political
24 party that is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general
25 public.

26 The purpose of said commission shall be to review and make recommendations on how
27 to most efficiently and effectively administer health and human services in the state of Rhode
28 Island.

29 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at
30 the call of the President of the Senate, who shall appoint a Chair of the commission. Vacancies in
31 said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

32 A quorum of the commission shall consist of a majority of its membership, and the
33 membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

34 All departments and agencies of the state, shall furnish such advice and information,

1 documentary or otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable
2 by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

3 The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide
4 suitable quarters for said commission; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
6 President of the Senate on or before March 1, 2022, and said commission shall expire on July 1,
7 2022.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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OF RHODE ISLAND

1 This resolution would create a not more than eleven (11) member special legislative
2 commission whose purpose it would be to review and make recommendations on how to most
3 efficiently and effectively administer health and human services in the state of Rhode Island, and
4 who would report back to the Senate no later than March 1, 2022, and whose life would expire on
5 July 1, 2022.

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